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JULY 4, 1876!

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

AT LENOX, MASS.

Historical Address

BY

HON. JULIUS ROCKWELL.

PITTSFIELD, MASS.
CHICKERING & AXTELL, STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1876.

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[PUBLIC RESOLUTION NO. 1.]

JOINT RESOLUTION on the celebration of the Centennial in the several counties or towns.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That it be, and is hereby recommended by the Senate and House of Representatives to the people of the several States that they assemble in their several counties or towns on the approaching Centennial Anniversary of our National Independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county or town from its formation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed, in print or manuscript, in the Clerk's office of said county, and an additional copy, in print or manuscript, be filed in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the First Centennial of their existence.

Approved, March 13, 1876.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, }
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 27, 1876. }

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Commonwealth transmit to the Clerks of the several cities and towns in the Commonwealth, a copy of the Joint Resolution of Congress on the celebration of the Centennial in the several counties or towns, transmitted to the Senate by his Excellency the Governor, April 24th, 1876.

GEO. A. MARDEN, *Clerk*.

SENATE, April 28, 1876.

Concurred-

S. N. GIFFORD, *Clerk*.

SKETCH OF THE CELEBRATION.

At its annual meeting April 3, 1876, the town of Lenox passed the following vote:—

Voted, That the following named persons, viz: Julius Rockwell, Thomas Post, Samuel Washburn, A. G. Belden, Z. P. Sears, Myron B. Mattoon, George Fitch, Rufus Parker, Thomas Sedgwick, Miles Washburn, George O. Peck, D. F. Dunbar, John Cook, J. G. Stanly and Chauncey Dewey, together with the Selectmen and Town Clerk, be a committee to take into consideration the subject of a centennial celebration of the next Fourth of July by this town.

The committee of arrangements, as above appointed, selected Hon. Richard Goodman for President of the Day, Judge Julius Rockwell for Orator, and Major Albert G. Belden for Chief Marshal, and appointed these sub-committees:—

On Music—George O. Peck, H. A. Belden, R. Gorham.

Invitations—Thomas Post, E. McDonald, F. J. Barrett.

Finance—T. Post, W. D. Curtis.

Picnic and Decorations—W. D. Curtis, John T. Parsons, George C. Thompson, John B. Root, Frank Miller.

Fireworks—F. A. Schermerhorn, Dr. R. C. Greenleaf, W. N. Tucker, John T. Parsons, C. H. Eddy.

Major Belden chose as his assistants L. S. Butler, F. J. Barrett, M. W. Butler, H. A. Belden, John W. Cooney, I. J. Newton and G. F. Washburn. He also organized and drilled a body of horsemen, some sixty strong, to do escort duty. The Selectmen appointed Leland M. Shepardson Chief of Police for the day, with eight specials. The music was furnished by a local drum corps, consisting of George O. Peck, Ralph Gorham, John T. Parsons, Nathaniel C. Root, John J. Clarke and S. S. Jenne.

The day itself was one of the most beautiful of the summer, and at an early hour the village streets were lively with people who had come from all parts of the town to join in the celebration. First in the morning was the dedication of the new fountain in the park, brief remarks being made on the occasion by Col. Richard T. Auchmuty and Judge Rockwell. At half past 10 a procession was formed in front of the

town house, and, headed by the Selectmen and with several hundred in line, marched to the Congregational Church. The invited guests and some of the older citizens were taken up in carriages. The cavalry troop acted as escort. The streets were gay with flags and bunting, put up under direction of Col. WILLIAM S. BEALS, the Boston decorator, who also trimmed the church and the tent where the dinner was held. In addition to these decorations the Club House, Sedgwick Hall, the Town House and several stores and private residences were handsomely trimmed, while nearly every house in the village displayed one or more flags.

The exercises at the church opened with a medley of national airs on the organ, Miss MARY J. HILL, organist, followed by singing of the "Flag of our Heroes," by the Congregational choir. Then Rev. THOMAS S. BOND read selections of scripture, and Rev. JUSTIN FIELD offered prayer. The song "Centennial Bells" was then rendered with fine effect by HENRY A. BELDEN and a selected quartet—JOHN T. PARSONS, R. GORHAM, W. D. CURTIS, F. J. BARRETT—after which the Declaration of Independence was read by Rev. CHARLES H. PARKHURST.

President GOODMAN'S introductory remarks were followed by the singing of "Our Banner of Glory," and Judge ROCKWELL'S address by "America," the audience joining with the choir, when the assembly was dismissed. More than seven hundred persons were present at the exercises in the church. The ushers were JOHN H. MATTOON, HENRY SEDGWICK, ALBERT C. BUTLER, EDMUND SPENCER, JOHN STANLEY, MARSHALL LANGDON.

An incident of the day was the march through the village in the morning of the "Colby Guard" of Pittsfield, on their way to the Lee celebration, and their return in the evening, when they gave a dress parade. An impromptu burlesque parade near evening afforded considerable amusement to those familiar with local matters. The fire-works, for which elaborate preparations had been made, were the only things which did not go off in accordance with programme, a sudden shower just before eight o'clock, the hour appointed for the display, compelling the hurried discharge of the principal pieces. A few rockets and bombs only were left to satisfy the large crowd which had gathered from Lenox and the neighboring towns.

The day passed off without accident of any kind, and, with the exception of the unlooked for shower in the evening, very satisfactorily.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

HON. RICHARD GOODMAN.

A century ago the Congress of the United States issued a Declaration announcing that the heretofore dependent colonies were independent states; that it was the will of the people to become a nation; and to-day we are called upon to assemble in our respective towns to commemorate that great event, and contribute such information as may swell the record of the achievements of this nation during the first century of its existence.

When that immortal Declaration of Independence was promulgated, the thirteen colonies forming the Union occupied only a region in length nine hundred miles, and in width about one hundred, with a population not exceeding two millions and a half. To-day the boundaries of the United States have became as broad as the continent, the area of square miles has increased from eight hundred thousand to three millions four hundred, and the population over forty millions.

The far seeing prediction of Jonathan Carver, a New England man, who in 1782 published in New England his travels, has been verified to the letter. Mighty states *have* emerged from the then wildernesses—solemn temples have supplanted the Indian huts which had no decorations but the barbarous trophies of their vanquished enemies; and the settlements on the Pacific coast have brought emoluments beyond the most sanguine expectations; disclosed new sources of trade; developed natural advantages and formed the shortest and most convenient line of communication between Europe and China.

The union of colonies, each an independent state,—whose brief existence was proclaimed by its enemies and apprehended by many of its friends, has met triumphantly every trial and in the last and greatest its indissolubility has been cemented with the blood and tears of the bravest and fairest of its children, the only blot on its escutcheon wiped out, and a Republican nation established, the like of which, though the dream of ages, has never before in the world's history had an existence.

The nearest approach to it was the Hebrew Republic under the Judges, when for above 300 years out of an existence of 460, that nation of simple husbandmen, possessing perfect freedom, equal laws, regular administration of justice, cultivating a soil which yielded bountifully, had reached a higher state of virtue and happiness than any of the people of the period, and had the jealous and sometimes hostile tribes composing it cemented a permanent union with a strong federal government, they could have resisted with effect all foreign invasions; they would not have again groaned under the yoke of the Philistines, nor would the people have sought nor wrung from their lawgiver a consent that their Republic should be changed into a monarchy.

The free states of Greece never coalesced into a nation; with the formation of the individual city their political growth may be said to have ended, and their inability to advance to any other idea of a Representative Assembly than a primary one involved a fatal hindrance to the growth of a nation. They had neither a press nor rapid communication between them, and that union of sentiment necessary to control the conduct of men in power could not without these accessories be effected among a large population. In the long struggle of twenty-seven years, between Athens and her allies and Sparta and her confederates for supremacy, the former working to make a nation of Greece, and the latter sticklers for state-rights, determined that the Hellenic tribes and cities should not be moulded into a nation, we have a picture of what might have happened here had not the wisdom of our fathers transformed the confederate states into one Republic. With our modern Athens and her Eastern allies on the one side, and the Spartan Charleston and her confederates and their colored helots on the other, with New York and other cities of the Middle States armed neutrals, and the conterminous states wavering in their allegiance, sometimes supporting the one party and again the other, the result must have been as ruinous as the great internecine war was to Greece and our *dis*united states would have become a prey to some superior power as easily as the Hellenics to the Macedonian monarchy.

But happily we had a people fully instructed in their political rights and privileges and after establishing constitutions to meet their local wants, they ordained one for the United States of America, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence and secure the blessings of liberty for themselves and their posterity.

No one who has not carefully read the debates of the convention which prefaced the formation of this organic law, can realize the despair there was at times among the most patriotic members of a favorable issue to the proceedings, the passion that mingled in the debates on the attempt

to adjust the distribution of political power between the states having and not having slaves, and the difficulty of discrimination between the two spheres of power, local and general. But at last the great work was accomplished and the constitution signed, and subsequently ratified by the people.

"Whilst the last members of the Convention were signing, Franklin, the Nestor of the assembly, looking towards the President's chair, at the back of which a rising sun happened to be painted, observed to a few members near him, that painters had found it difficult to distinguish in their art a rising from a setting sun. 'I have,' said he, 'often and often in the course of this session and the vicissitudes of my hopes and fears as to its issue, looked at that behind the President without being able to tell whether it was rising or setting; but now at length I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."

And the sun has continued to rise, and though it has shone for a brief space on a "land rent with civil feuds and drenched in fraternal blood," yet the prayer of Webster has been accepted, and instead of "shining on the broken and dishonored fragments of a once glorious union," it has risen again like the sun of righteousness with healing upon its wings over a permanently united empire.

The so called Roman Republic like that of Greece was but an oppressive aristocracy, composed of the free citizens, and the vast mass of the working population was but slaves. The principle of representation was quite unknown to it as to the rest of the ancient world, and even in modern times had been but little enjoyed by the people until illustrated by its spontaneous appreciation in this hemisphere. That the "greatest happiness of the greatest number" is the foundation of morals and legislation was a truth unrecognized by governing powers until put in words and force by this trans-Atlantic Republic.

It is true that at the foundation of the great system of Roman Jurisprudence lay the recognition—repugnant to all ancient ideas—of the natural equality of man, born of the sense of universal brotherhood, which Alexander the Great impressed upon the world by the fusion he made of Greeks and Persians, of Europe and Asia, during his universal conquests. It was a dogma of Cicero and Seneca and the Stoic philosophy, bnt was never put in practical application.

The distinction between bond and free still remained. Slavery as a social institution has hardly yet been effaced throughout the world, and neither ancient sage nor Christian saint dreamed of its abolition.

In fact, the Pagan idea of man (and woman, too,) was to regard him as of value only as he formed a part of the political fabric—not as an individual but only as a *thing*. Neither Plato nor Aristotle could rise above this low conception and it was only destroyed by the advent of

Christianity, which first pronounced authoritatively that *in the eyes of God all men are equal.* From this time the struggle for the individuality of man, the elevation of woman from the low state in which she was kept in the heathen world and the right of every person to the wages of his own labor commenced, and has but recently culminated in the last finish to our Constitution by the entire abolition of slavery—being but "the fulfillment of the first thought in the Declaration of Independence."

The formation of the Constitution, the gigantic, successful struggle of a people for an indissoluble Republic, with one law for all, and the sweeping away therewith of the "flaring inconsistency between the ideas promulgated at the birth of the nation and the fact of human bondage every where recognized in the local law," stand out as the crowning events of the century, but the increase of territory, population and wealth, commerce and manufactures, and of the means of education—freedom in religion and politics, the prosperity of the individual states, the elevation of labor and favorable condition of laborers in all departments, and the respect accorded to the United States as a great nation by the rest of the world, attest the success of the principles which it has been the first to put in practice. The ideal Republics of Plato and Cicero, the Utopia of Moore and New Atlantis of Bacon, and the other visions of great dreamers, have been surpassed in all their essential beneficial characteristics, and their glaring faults avoided by a government established by "embattled farmers" and a "great permanent experimental answer" has been given to the sophisms and declarations of the detractors of liberty and of the possibility of self-government. In addition, it has animated freemen all over the world to resist oppression, and if the prophecy of Napoleon that the world would be soon Cossack or Republican, has not been verified to the letter, there are manifest signs that republican tendencies are prominent in all European States, and the people there are reaping the benefit of the exampie of a nation made by the people and for the people, and governed without a monarch to control or an aristocracy to restrain them.

France, our strongest ally and readiest imitator, chastened, purified, educated, and beginning her emancipation from the bondage of priestcraft, is emerging into a true Republic. Russia has abolished every vestage of serfdom from her wide domains. The British peoples are enjoying a constitutional government with a continually enlarging area of suffrage, and their colonies are held very lightly by silken cords. The continental kingdoms have a wholesome remembrance of the uprisings of 1848, and Hungary, in consequence of her noble struggle for autonomy, is a co-ordinate kingdom with Austria. Greece has ceased to be a vassal of Turkey, and Italy is an independent kingdom with Rome for its capitol. The dependencies of Spain on this continent early

threw off her yoke, and Spain herself—the hot-bed of superstition and intolerance, and the home of the inquisition—has been a Republic in name, and is now compelled to accord to her subjects freedom of conscience and the right to secular education. Even the mild East Indians have threatened the supremacy of British rule, and to-day we hear the battle peal of the slavonic races on the Danube—the descendants of those who formed the armies of Pynhus and Alexander—as they take up arms to rid their respective territories of the oppression of the effete and cruel successors of the once formidable Ottomans, and establish themselves as independent states.

"Thus Freedom's battle once begun,
Though baffled oft is ever won."

Next in importance to the civil and religious liberty developed and extended by the American Republic, has been the system of common schools, a method of enforcing universal education, which owes its parentage to the Protestant reformation. Luther said "if he were not a preacher he would be a teacher," and it was in the protestant states of Germany that the government first assumed the task of educating all the people, and of fulfilling that conception of the duty of legislators which had dawned upon the active intellects of the Grecian philosophers, but which required the practical minds of a free christian people to carry out to its beneficent results. Massachusetts and Connecticut early passed laws obliging fathers of a family to see that their children were taught to read and write, and were instructed in the elements of morals and religion, and throughout New England the principle had always been admitted that it was the duty of the State to educate its children, but it was not until 1834 that a fund of $100,000 was raised in Massachusetts to aid the towns in their educational labors, and from that time a steady progress has been made, not only through New England, but all over the Union. But Massachusetts has the proud pre-eminence of expending more money upon its schools than any other State in proportion to its population; its teachers are better paid; its school buildings generally more complete, and its people more carefully instrncted than in any other portion of the Union.

Said Mr. Webster in 1837: "Among the luminaries in the sky of New England, the burning lights which throw intelligence and happiness on her people, the first and most brilliant is her system of common schools. Education, to accomplish the ends of good government, should be universally diffused. Open the doors of the school house to all the children in the land. Let no man have the excuse of poverty for not educating his own offspring. On the diffusion of education among the people rests the preservation of our free institutions." This diffusion of educa-

tion is no longer confined to New England, but pervades the whole Union, and even in the former slave territory where the great mass of illiterates existed, common schools are now suffered to come, and where formerly a large part of the people were forbidden by law even to learn to read and write, there will soon be but few of the rising generation deprived of those fundamental privileges. And what has been said of New England by intelligent foreign observers, that *there* is the most perfect government in the world, the most equal condition and most universal comfort among the people, owing in great part to the care taken that every child should be thoroughly instructed in the common branches of learning, may we trust be soon said of all the population of the other states of the Republic. For wherever education extends, crime diminishes, the morals of the community improves, and taste and culture flourish. Let us cling to our common schools with hearts of steel, and see that no part of the fund for their support be devoted from its legitimate purpose.

Equally characteristic of those principles which grew out of the activity of conscience awakened by the reformation and the study of the great book, thereby first opened to the eyes and hearts of the common people, was the elevation of labor, which has marked our country's history from the earliest period to the present time, and predominated in those parts of the Union permeated by Puritan principles.

From the earliest times of which there exists any authentic record, the performance of the labor necessary to sustain life has been an occasion of contention and struggle in human society. "The simple wish," says Maine in his "Ancient Law," "to use the bodily powers of another person as a means of ministering to one's own ease and pleasure, is doubtless the foundation of slavery, and as old as human nature." Prior to the success of our system of government, which has made man feel that he was to serve no master but God, the permanent destructions of castes and classes made labor disreputable, and even yet in other countries "the mildew of the past is still thickly coated upon the efforts and hopes of the present." But labor, at first the necessity of their being, became honored at the hands of those who hewed out their independence in the unbroken forests, and the whole history of the prosperity of our country bears witness to the honorable toil which has made the wilderness blossom like the rose, Palmyras to dot even the deserts, palaces, more useful and as stately as the pleasure dome of Kubla-Khan, project in every city, mountains and rivers give forth their gold and silver, coal and oils, and the earth, everywhere tickled with the ploughshare and the hoe, yield bountiful harvests.

The expansion of our territory and the intelligent and free labor applied to its culture in the western states—with the stimulus of mechani-

cal inventions—have enabled us to dispel the cruel shadow cast over the world's progress by the forebodings of Mlathus, that population would increase faster than the supply of food, and divert the cruel jest of Swift, that the only remedy was the destruction of infants, from becoming all over the world a matter of fact, as among the poorer classes of China.

The wheat fields alone which failed to supply the troops at Valley Forge with bread, throw into the European market every year two hundred and fifty million bushels; the exportation from Chicago which began in 1838 with seventy-eight bushels, increased in twenty-four years to twenty-three million bushels; and we have not only taken our food and clothing, our wheat, corn and cotton to the hungry and needy peoples abroad, but offered them almost without money or price untold acres of the richest soil, and they have eagerly accepted our offers, and the gnawings of hunger have driven as many emigrants to our shores as did religion and civil persecutions.

And yet such is the advance in agricultural knowledge, and mechanics and manufacturing, and in the estimate of skilled labor, and in the multiplication of implements, that there need be no apprehension of the capabilities of this country to provide bountifully for its future hundreds of millions, and spare again and again from its vast resources all that the older countries may need.

No one familiar with the sublimest poem and simplest tragedy of antiquity, the Prometheus of Eschylus, can have failed to note the passage in which is given a rapid enumeration of all the discoveries and inventions which make the difference between the savage and civilized man. To supplement that list with those which have marked the progress of the first century of our republic, would make a catalogue rivalling in extent, if not in renown, that of the Homeric enumeration of the rival forces on the plains of Troy, and weary the patience of the most patriotic.

The steamboats of Fitch and Fulton traverse every river and cross every ocean, the land and submarine telegraphs of Morse unite the various parts of the world with threads of discourse and harmony; the cotton gin of Whitney gave that supremacy to cotton which made it aspire to be a king over us, with colored slavery for the corner stone of its kingdom, whilst on the other hand the adaptation of machinery to agriculture released men enough from the fields to meet and assist in vanquishing those of the rebellious states where labor, mainly servile, was carried on by a class not enrolled in their armies, and the sewing machines and cooking stoves enabled the women of the free states to perform their indoor operations with ease, and assist as in revolutionary times in the labors ordinarily performed by their husbands and sons.

The demonstration of the anæsthetical quality of chloroform, and the sanitary commission, did much to alleviate the miseries of the war, whilst the inventions of Colt, Spencer, and other fire-arms, gave us a superiority in those branches, and the opportune arrival of Ericson's monitor in Hampton Roads averted the demolition of our navy and maritime cities. The utilization of anthracite coal, Goodyear's vulcanized rubber, Bigelow's carpet loom, Bassamer's steel process, the marvellous development of mineral sources, the oil products of Pennsylvania and copper and silver mines in the west, the immense increase in commerce and manufactures, and internal improvements, the great engineering products from the Erie Canal to the East River and St. Louis bridges, the annexation of California with its mines of gold and silver and its assurance to us by the construction of the Pacific Railroad, the banking system, the attainments in literature, science, home comforts, material wealth and large wages, which make the United States the Eldorado of all working people, are the results of the past century. The first transatlantic voyage made by the steamship Savannah in 1819, the extensive commerce carried in all parts of the world, and the increased manufactures of iron, cotton, wool, boots and shoes, paper, silk, &c.; the application of machinery to mining and agricultural processes, without which the eastern and western states, where the bulk of the male population was engaged in these pursuits, could hardly have sent men enough to the front to meet those of the rebellious states, where labor was mainly servile and carried on by a class not enrolled in the armies.

To name these alone is to stamp the century as the most marvelous in its gifts to the material and moral progress of man of all that have preceded it, and probably never again to be equalled. And yet but a portion of the work wrought in the hundred years just closed, attesting the might and grandeur of republican institutions, has been mentioned. And not by conquest nor by war has this glorious result been reached, but by the peaceful development of the genius and energy implanted in the people themselves.

Changing but little the language of Milton in his sonnet to the Lord General Cromwell, we can say,

> "Peace hath her victories
> *More* renowned than war."

Another and abler tongue than mine will to-day recount to you, in the spirit of the proclamation of the President and the resolve of Congress, how local self-government was the precursor and great factor in perfecting national unity, and yet when all is said we must revert to the "Sermon on the Mount" as the charter of all our liberties, finding there for the first time the distinctively christian conception of the fatherhood

of God and the brotherhood of men. We shall also realise that in the epochs of the advent of the Son of Man, the fusion of all nations into one by the Roman Conquest at the same era, the discoveries of Columbus, the reformation of Luther and the hegira of pilgrims and puritans from civil and religious persecutions in their native homes, there had been a providential preparation for the great events which have culminated in a new world, whose existence was unknown a few hundred years ago. Let us by public and private virtue seek to perpetuate the blessings which have been so bountifully bestowed upon us, and -

"Let children hear the mighty deeds which God performed of old,
Which in our younger days we saw, and which our fathers told.
Our lips shall tell them to our sons and they again to theirs,
That generations yet unborn may teach them to their heirs.
Thus shall they learn in God alone their hope securely stands,
That they may ne'er forget his works, but practice his commands."

HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

HON. JULIUS ROCKWELL.

FELLOW CITIZENS: With your leave, I will speak of the spirit of the American people in the opening years of the revolution.

That spirit could not be understood in England, and because it was not understood by the king and government of Great Britain, the American colonies were lost to the British crown. That crown had never before lost a colony, and has since gone far to colonize the world. The hereditary and trained statesmen of Great Britain neglected no source of information concerning the American people. All that could be learned about the colonies was known to them. But there were things that a British statesman, and especially a British monarch, could not learn. They could not understand the spirit of the people in the towns and precincts of the country, great and small. In time they became acquainted with the spirit of a portion of the people of Boston, but they could not know how far that spirit pervaded the country.

Perhaps the clearest intellects in America did not, at that time, fully understand the spirit of their own people. They honestly wore the silken glove. The first Provincial Congress spoke sincerely of "the Protestant succession," and "the illustrious House of Hanover." All the County Conventions in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, during the year 1774, made it their first resolve, "That king George the Third is our rightful king, and that we will bear true allegiance to him." Not until they had bitterly learned that they were Englishmen without the rights of Englishmen, did they realize the might of their hand of steel.

Certainly they were not moved by the spirit of ordinary revolutions. They were loyal to every muniment of the British government. The history of England, the common law of England, the literature and science of England, as well as the English language, were inseparably theirs. But it was the infraction of equal rights that would not be borne. The subjects of the realm, wherever counted, must have a voice in the government, as a matter of right; not by courtesy, not by per-

mission, but by inalienable right. The government heard the manifesto, but had no belief in its performance, had no adequate knowledge of the spirit of the people in this hemisphere. The British government supposed that the influential classes in America had become perverse; that, when they were subdued, the ignorant and stupid masses would be loyal of course. But the influence was in the masses; and when this was discovered it was too late. The prescience of the leaders in those movements was remarkable, but the prescience of the masses of the people was more remarkable still.

The first century of the republic is closing, and no man here saw its beginning. We have no warrant to say that the life of the youngest now here will span the opening century. But our country, what is it? Not an imagination, but a glorious reality, not clothed in the lineaments of flesh and blood, but more enduring and possibly immortal; living in the vigor of perpetual manhood, with a heart of love, an eye of kindness, a helping hand of power only less than that of the Infinite; welcoming us at our birth, holding in assured security our persons, property, liberty and life, protecting our reputations in life and after death, while memory of us continues in the mind of any man. This is our country, our government. Is it wonderful that we cling to, cherish, adore our country and its government; that we mark its epochs, that whenever they recur we recount with never-tiring gratitude to God the conscience, the courage, the victory of our fathers?

Though we did not see the stormy dawn of the past century, we have seen the fierce fires of its evening. The period began with the struggle for independent government; it closes with the establishment of free government, without distinction of race. Passing across this field of gold, we see in equal honor the spirits of our fathers and of our sons.

When, on the first of January, 1776, thirteen stripes, representing the thirteen colonies, appeared upon the flag at Cambridge, there also appeared upon that flag the device of the British Union—the cross of St. George, with the Scottish cross of St. Andrew—and General Howe, hearing of this from Boston, for the moment hailed its appearance as a promise that the union with America was not to be broken. But on the fourteenth of June, 1777, Congress inserted thirteen stars in the place of this device, and as the new States have come into the Union each one has set its "star of glory there." Honor and blessing to the flag of our country! It protects us at home and on the farthest seas. If the proud declaration was not true when it was first asserted, it is now true, "the American flag is the only thing American that can bear stripes."

The spirit of the revolution was exhibited to the world by our public men in our organized representative conventions and congresses. But behind all these were the people; the people at their homes, the people

in their several towns and precincts. The history of the conduct of the people of a town may most vividly and clearly present the spirit of the people of the country. As we never in the tumult can observe the progress of a great battle, but can only judge of its result by the spirit, conduct and success of the corps to which we are attached, so do we observe the conduct of the people of a single town, in illustration of the spirit and conduct of the people everywhere. We therefore give cheerful heed to the suggestion of the government, and revive the memory of events here, in connection with provincial and national events and of the spirit of our people at that era.

Although this town was small, comparatively secluded, mainly covered with the original forest, its inhabitants laboriously increasing their small areas of cultivation about their dwellings, which were separate and somewhat distant from each other, I suppose it was a representative town, and none the less a representative town because its citizens had been recently brought together from several and somewhat distant localities in this Province and in Connecticut. What then was the spirit and conduct of the people of Lenox at the commencement of the Revolution?

Mrs. Phœbe Northrup Washburn died in this town February 28, 1867, at the age of one hundred years and nine days. Although the limits of her life did not mark precisely the beginning and end of the first century of the republic, as she was born and for nearly ten years lived the subject of the British crown, she saw the commencement of the Revolution and the close of the civil war. During her life three generations of men were borne along this aisle, to mingle with that sacred earth. It was as if the earth had three times opened in her presence and swallowed up a thousand men. When the year 1800 came, the first of the three generations was gone. The business of our inquiries to-day is with that generation.

Events in this and every town in the Province of Massachusetts Bay are to be considered in connection with the transactions of the three Provincial Congresses in 1774 and 1775; also of the Committee of Safety, and also of the Continental Congress by which the Declaration of Independence was finally made. We shall be inevitably misled, if we examine the records of the town except in this connection. We may be sure that the spirit of the majority of the people of any average town was the spirit of the majority of the American people. But we cannot claim the origin for this or any town of particular resolutions or measures. The spirit of the revolutionary age was pervading; the principles of liberty were magnetic. Traditions as to their local origin are unreliable. In the examination of town records, we are also to be mindful of the transactions of the County Conventions in the Province in 1774, especially of the Convention of "sixty gentlemen deputies" of the several

towns in the County of Berkshire, at Stockbridge, July 6, 1774. The league and covenant to prevent the consumption of the merchandise of Great Britain was there reported, discussed and accepted. Copies were distributed to the towns and signed by the people, probably of every town in the county. The origin of all resolutions may usually be found in these Conventions. Thus examining, we may realize that wondrous popular spirit, which in a regal and despotic age of the world established a representative republican government on the Atlantic coast of North America, to be extended in its first century to the Pacific.

The county of Berkshire, then part of Hampshire, was settled by civilized men almost a century later than the other counties of the Province. Lenox was incorporated in 1767. For nearly a decade, the inhabitants were the subjects of George III. On December 25, 1775, a vote was carried in Lenox town meeting, "that there shall be no more warrants given out in his Majesty's name, to warn town meetings." That trait of the American mind, promptness of decision, was here exhibited. The loyal resolutions of the Stockbridge Convention of 1774 had become obsolete. On March 15, 1777, the annual town meeting was warned, "in the name of the authority and people of Massachusetts Bay." The Stockbridge Convention was held July 6, 1774. The league and covenant was signed in that July, still in the hope of obtaining justice from the mother country.

The debatable period was between July, 1774, and March, 1777. The majority finally decided in favor of a change of allegiance. Change of allegiance by the subject was revolution. The real origin, unfelt at the time, of that revolution, was the assembling of the first Provincial Congress at Salem, October 7, 1774, which continued in session at Salem, Concord and Cambridge, till December 10.

"The supreme hours unnoted come,
Unfelt the turning tides of doom."*

During these two months there were three vacations, enabling the members to consult with their constituents and receive their instructions. This first Provincial Congress was remarkable among human assemblies. On the first day of September, 1774, the royal Governor of Massachusetts Bay, by precept commanded the inhabitants of the several towns to send representatives to the great and general court of the Province, to be convened at Salem, on the fifth of October. But on the 28th of the

*James T. Austin, in his Life of Elbridge Gerry, says: "This assembly of distinguished citizens, unsupported by military power, but resting with more security on the voluntary approbation of the people, constituted in effect the supreme power of a new commonwealth, and maintained it with consummate ability and eventual success. From the day of their first meeting the royal authority within the province of Massachusetts was forever at an end."

same September, the same Governor, Thomas Gage, issued a proclamation, giving notice to the members not to come, declaring his intention not to meet them, giving for his reasons, "The disordered and unhappy state of the Province; the extraordinary resolves which had been passed in many of the counties; and the instructions given by the town of Boston and some other towns to their representatives." Here was the secret which the mother could not learn from the child. The instructions welled up from the people of the towns. The "pestilent leaders," whom she sought to chastise and subdue, were only the heralds of the challenge of three millions of people.

As soon as his precept was issued calling a general court, the people of the towns elected their representatives, and gave them instructions which the Governor disapproved, and therefore revoked the order of his precept. The people of Boston and other towns, in that month of September, 1774, thus made the Revolution, which never went backward, though sustained by protracted and bloody war. The towns instructed their representatives to repair to Salem, according to the royal precept, without heed to the royal counter proclamation, and, if they found no Governor there, to proceed without one and to find a remedy for the "disordered and unhappy" state of the Province. The assembly convened on the 5th, and waited all that day (Wednesday) to give opportunity to Governor Gage to change his mind and to meet them, according to his own precept. But, as he did not appear, they organized on Thursday, and on Friday they passed some resolutions, among which was the following:

"*Resolved*—That some of the causes assigned for this unconstitutional and wanton prevention of the General Court have, in all good governments, been considered among the greatest reasons for convening a parliament or assembly; and, therefore, the proclamation is considered as a further proof, not only of His Excellency's disaffection towards the Province, but of the necessity of its most vigorous and immediate exertions for preserving the freedom and constitution thereof."

They then resolved themselves into a Provincial Congress and published their proceedings; in other words, they sent the Governor an open letter. Very soon they sent him another in more detail, and forwarded this by twenty-one of their number. On the 17th, the Governor made his reply, in which he advised them not to forget, that, by their assembling, they were subverting their charter, and were acting in direct violation of their own constitution. I believe the Congress never replied to this communication, and probably one reason was the difficulty of making a logical reply to this statement of the Governor, which, in fact, was but another way of telling them that their lives were forfeited for high treason. Here, then, was a Commonwealth without a Governor; carried on by a single assembly, appointing its committees and authorizing them to decide and immediately carry their decisions into effect,

and calling upon the Selectmen of Boston and the Overseers of the Poor, and the Committees of Correspondence, to give their advice, and also adjourning and returning home, every two or three weeks, to take the opinions of the people in private consultation, or in their town meetings, for the help and guidance of the Congress. Here was a democracy, carrying out its will by the agency of an assembly of representatives; that assembly exercising all power, legislative and executive. This town sent for its representative to the first Provincial Congress, JOHN PATERSON. He also represented the town in the second Provincial Congress, which convened at Cambridge, February 1, 1775, continuing its sessions, with intervals, until May 29. This Congress was like the first in its assumption of full powers, in its direct instructions from the people, and in the return of its members to lay its proceedings before the people and claim their continued advice and assistance. The third Provincial Congress convened at Watertown, May 31, 1775, and was dissolved July 6, 1775. Lenox was also represented in this Congress by Captain CALEB HYDE, Colonel PATERSON having raised and organized a regiment and being engaged in the field, his regiment having become part of the Continental army. One of the last acts of this Congress was to revise the commission of the Committee of Safety and Supplies, giving them authority to call meetings of the Congress at any time, as well as other great powers.

During this period, while the Provincial Congress and the Committee of Safety were exercising all executive and legislative powers, the courts of justice were closed, but no great crimes were anywhere committed, and peace and good order generally prevailed. Indeed, to some extent, the Provincial Congress exercised judicial powers—not in the Congress, but by its members and by the authority of common consent. The people seemed determined to prove to the world that, even without the usual forms of law and legislation, they could, in a great exigency, govern themselves. In framing constitutions, care is usually taken to provide for a new appointment, when an officer fails by death or desertion. But this assembly had another method. The people were always at hand. The discharge of official duties did not necessarily require officers when the people were the sovereigns. For the time, the people took upon themselves the duties of all departments. But all this was temporary. The Provincial Congress, and the people themselves, lived, the better part of this period, in the light of two great ideas: the one, the idea of representative government, based in part upon the British constitution, with two houses of Parliament, but with executive officers, not hereditary but elective; the other, the idea of a confederation of all the sovereign states. After the assembling of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1774, although for some time practical legisla-

tion was left to the Provincial Congresses, the latter continued in the expectation of surrendering their powers, so far as the national defense was concerned, to the Continental Congress.

The direct manner in which the people were connected with the measures of the Provincial Congress may appear from the following instances. The first Provincial Congress was dissolved December 10, 1774, recommending, among other things, to the towns and districts forthwith to elect members to a new Congress. The reason for the dissolution was declared to be the danger of continuing so great powers as Congress exercised, without a new election. Their delegates were also charged with some confidential communications. The Lenox delegate, Mr. PATERSON, returned home, and sixteen days after, December 26, the town voted to procure a stock of ammunition, and to raise the sum of twenty pounds to pay for the same, and appointed a committee of eleven to collect grain to purchase said stock. Mr. PATERSON had brought with him the address of the Congress, which assured his constituents that war, if not inevitable, was most likely to break out, and he advised immediate preparation, which advice was thus adopted. January 30, 1775, Mr. PATERSON was elected delegate to the second Provincial Congress. March 21, 1775, the town voted "to abide by the doings of the Provincial Congress." April 14, 1775, the town voted to procure forty muskets. Not many of the town records can be incorporated in this address; these, however, may clearly show that the people of this town took care to be represented in the Provincial Congresses, to be continually acquainted with their proceedings, and to take measures to do their part as a town, whenever their delegate recommended. Their delegate, Mr. PATERSON, was a member of ten committees during the first and second Congresses, some of them of the most important character.

May 27, 1775, Colonel JOHN PATERSON, having satisfied the Committee of Safety that his regiment was nearly full, a certificate was given him of the same, and it was recommended that the regiment be commissioned. Two days after that, the second Provincial Congress, in which he had been so faithful and able a delegate, was dissolved, and he went into the field with that regiment, which, during the whole time he was in Congress, he had been striving to collect and organize. This regiment was composed principally of companies from the middle and northern towns in this county. Five companies, at least, were from this county; four others, perhaps, were from other parts of Massachusetts, and one from the State of New York.

The first departure of armed men from Lenox to the coast was upon an unfounded alarm in the autumn of 1774. The expenses of Captain CHARLES DIBBLE and Mr. EDWARD GRAY* were paid afterwards by the

*At the mention of the name of EDWARD GRAY, the speaker paused and called atten-

town. The first real alarm was after the battles of Lexington and Concord. The second Provincial Congress, of which General PATERSON was a member, had adjourned from April 15 until May 10, but on the 17th of April, but two days after the adjournment, the committee from Charlestown and neighboring towns, which had been authorized to recall the members, if necessary, summoned all the delegates to return at once, on account of reinforcements received by General GAGE and of manifest preparations for a speedy march into the country by British troops. This notice was sent by express messengers, and perhaps reached the Berkshire delegates before the alarm of the 19th from the Lexington expedition. At any rate, the minutemen were in Boston with almost incredible promptness, with their officers, Colonel PATERSON and Colonel FELLOWS, who commanded the regiment from the southern towns of Berkshire. After their arrival at Cambridge upon this summons, PATERSON'S regiment was re-organized, enlarged and taken into the Continental service, having enlisted for a term of eight months. Colonel PATERSON served out that period with his regiment, which was stationed near Boston. The regiment then consisted of ten companies, one of which was commanded by Captain CHARLES DIBBLE of Lenox. Before the close of the eight months' term most of the regiment re-enlisted for a longer term. The first fort erected for the siege of Boston, Fort No. 3, was erected by this regiment. The regiment was expressly ordered by General WARD to man and defend this fort, to prevent an attack in the rear of the troops engaged in the battle of Bunker Hill. The regiment was thus prevented from fighting at Bunker Hill, but they rendered good service, and, as Milton says of the angels,

"They also serve, who only stand and wait."

After the evacuation of Boston by the British troops, March 17, 1776, the regiment was ordered to New York, and thence to Canada, expecting to take part in the attack upon Quebec with the troops under Montgomery and Arnold. It was a fine regiment when it left New York, six hundred strong. But disaster had fallen upon our troops in Canada before its arrival. The regiment, under great embarrassments, retreated from Canada, by the way of Crown Point and Ticonderoga, and then fortified Mount Independence, where it remained till November. The regiment afterwards joined the army of General WASHINGTON, at New-

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tion to a beautiful cluster of red roses on the table before him. He said: "These are centennial roses. The bush was in the garden of Mr. GRAY, one of the first settlers. His first home was upon the west bank of the Housatonic, on the present farm of Albert Langdon, at the foot of the hill easterly from the East Street school house. Every year, for more than a hundred years, and long after the house was abandoned for the residence of the GRAYS on the East Street, this brave rose bush has reproduced its roses, precisely similar to the first, and here they are to-day—the Lenox Centennial roses."

town, Pa., crossed the Delaware with him and took part in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. These were the battles that so changed the plans of Lord Cornwallis, who was about leaving in person to bear the intelligence to England that the Colonies were substantially subdued. But the genius exhibited by General WASHINGTON in these battles detained him, and he afterwards left part of his personal equipments at a place called Yorktown.

The regiment spent the winter at Morristown, and was concerned in the capture of Burgoyne at Saratoga, in October, 1777. When the regiment arrived at Newtown it had only two hundred and twenty men. But, fellow citizens, this was the fate of most of the early regiments. And herein consists the great merit of those officers and men. They suffered, sickened, died, that we might live; that we might live in America, under American government, its powers limited and its officers elected by the people, under the best government, beyond all question, upon the face of the earth.

General PATERSON, after the war, remained in Lenox, in civil pursuits, till about 1790. It was unfortunate that he ever changed his residence, as he did, afterwards residing in the western part of the State of New York. If he had died here it would have been resolved that he was deserving of a pubiic monument. And that subject is worthy of consideration now. It may fairly be claimed that he was among the very foremost of the Revolutionary patriots and soldiers of Berkshire.* That this is great praise very fully appears from the recorded character of many of the citizens of other towns. The noble patriots of Pittsfield have been fortunate in an historian of tact, genius and patient investigation. In several of the other towns the same duty has been worthily performed, especially in the more ancient towns of Stockbridge and Sheffield.

We must not fail to recur to the County Conventions. These conventions were held in nearly all the counties of the Province in the summer and autumn of 1774. They prepared the way for that remarkable change of base, which converted the great and general Court, called by Governor GAGE, into a Provincial Congress, under the ban of the Governor.

The Berkshire Convention was held at Stockbridge July 6, 1774. JOHN ASHLEY was chairman, and THEODORE SEDGWICK, clerk. The proceedings were preceded by an animated prayer, made by the Rev. Dr. WEST. The delegates from Lenox were CALEB HYDE,* EDWARD GRAY, LEMUEL COLLENS, JOHN PATERSON, WILLIAM WALKER. The solemn league and covenant, there adopted, was signed by one hundred and ten citizens of Lenox, July 14, 1774. It was placed upon the rec-

*See notes.

ords of the town in 1828, by a unanimous vote of the town, at the request of WILLIAM WALKER and ELIJAH NORTHRUP, the only surviving signers at that time. This agreement was undoubtedly signed by a large majority of the people in all the towns of the county. The resolutions of this Convention and the league and covenant comprised the great principles of the Revolution, made them familiar to the people, and they were familiar as household words to the men and women of that generation.

But even in these opening years of the Revolution the people were not united. Some did not consider the causes sufficient for the change; some were too indolent to aid in a change, and went from home, concealing their places of residence for years. Debates were bitter, party spirit ran high, neighborhoods were divided, members of families were estranged from each other. At the evacuation of Boston, fifteen hundred tories left that town with the British troops. They had been gathering into Boston, for months, from the whole Province. Many were still remaining, however, in the towns, and became in time patriotic citizens. The movement for revolution was the act of a majority. And herein lay the secret of its power, for human nature, even in the best of causes, rejoices in the excitement of opposition. One political party can never carry on free government. Fortunately, in Lenox the evidences of a royalist feeling are mostly in the nebulous regions of tradition. Nobody cares to verify that tradition.

One mighty influence was almost uniformly in the right direction, the influence of the hearth and the pillow. Women knew full well that war was to be most dreadful to them. They knew that the more earnest the patriotism and the more reliable the courage of their husbands, fathers and sons, the greater must be the privations, dangers and sufferings of daughters, wives and mothers. And yet they were everywhere found encouraging the contest. They knew that a free government would elevate the character of their sons and bless the homes of their daughters.

As the account of PATERSON'S regiment, after its eight months' service near Boston, contained in all the local histories and in this address, is understood to have been obtained, through the historian of Berkshire, the late Rev. Dr. FIELD of Stockbridge, from the lips of Judge WILLIAM WALKER during the last years of his life, who had been an officer in the regiment, that life having closed in 1831, at eighty years, I feel bound to present a slight sketch of his character and services; and I know of no better way of presenting in brief review the spirit of the Revolution, as exhibited in the lives of many men of that period. He came to Lenox about 1773, from Rehoboth, in the Old Colony, having just attained his majority. He was a farmer and mechanic, which occupations were often

combined in those days, with also some education as a surveyor, in the common schools. His means of living were dependent entirely upon his personal labor. He had no time to lose or to give away. A stable and satisfactory government would have been to him the supreme blessing of life. But he saw, with his strong common sense, that a government attempting the separation of the power of taxation from the right of representation would never be satisfactory, and he was willing to do his full part in resisting that attempt, even to death. As he would not ask another to make a sacrifice which he did not share, he enrolled his name among the minutemen, liable to be called at any hour to the vicinity of Boston, where the British army held uneasy possession. When the light from the lanthorn of PAUL REVERE appeared over the crests of the Green mountains, announcing the departure of troops from Boston for Lexington and Concord, he went at once with the other minutemen to the scene of danger, and soon went into service in the army, as a private or subaltern officer, for a term of service which continued until 1777, sharing the varied fortunes of PATERSON'S regiment. Afterwards he was superintendent of the recruiting service in this part of Massachusetts. There was no pleasure that he did not forego, no risk that he did not cheerfully assume, no political duty, anywhere, that he did not fully discharge. When relieved from duty as a soldier he took up the broken threads of his business and prepared to encourage his townsmen in passing through the pecuniary trials and embarrassments that followed the war. In council and in the field during SHAY'S insurrection, he aided in disarming opposition to the new government. His ripened character in after life, the confidence reposed in him to the end, proved that all this enthusiasm of his young prime of life was sincere.

Something was learnt by the awakened minds of British statesmen from similar exhibitions of the American spirit, which appeared in all the counties of the Province, and in all the thirteen colonies. The genius of WILLIAM PITT, Earl of Chatham, saw and read truly the spirit of young America, and he exclaimed: "My lords, you cannot conquer America. I know that the valor of your troops, and the skill of your officers, can accomplish anything but impossibilities, but the conquest of English America is an impossibility."

Fellow citizens, the men of the Revolution are all gone. The relics of the Revolutionary age are mostly swept away. Even now the Old South Church, the edifice where the burning words of Otis, Hancock, Adams and Warren fired and animated the hearts of the people at the beginning of the century, is about to be demolished. May not this, almost the last material reminder of the Revolution, be preserved for another century? If the people of Massachusetts will be minutemen for one week, this can be done.

The materials for doing justice to the citizens of this town for the part they took in the war which commenced by the attack on Fort Sumter, must be collected on another occasion. Lenox furnished one hundred and sixty men for the war. At the end of the war, the town had a surplus of sixteen above all demands. Seven of the one hundred and sixty were commissioned officers. The amount of money appropriated and expended by the town on account of the war, exclusive of state aid, was $14,642. The ladies of Lenox organized a Soldiers' Aid Society in 1861, and were constantly forwarding boxes of clothing and other articles until the close of the war.

Of the victims of the civil war, some sleep in this cemetery, two others in that on the east bank of the Housatonic river, but most are far away; all, however, within the limits of the rescued union. Others are life sufferers from the effects of wounds received in the war.

Just beyond the tents of our festivity to-day, on the brow of the same hill, is the residence where our friends, never forgotten, CHARLES SEDGWICK and his wife ELIZABETH, lived and died. WILLIAM DWIGHT SEDGWICK, their youngest son, was killed at Antietam. Beyond and across the way is an estate, which is one of the most picturesque and cultivated in all this region. Its proprietors are abroad and its gates are closed, we hope for no long time. Thirteen years since and the eldest daughter, then a young and beautiful bride, was there for a few days with her young husband, Colonel ROBERT G. SHAW. A few days after, I saw him at the head of his regiment on Boston Common, about to lead them to the front. His regiment was of that race for whose perpetual slavery the war was commenced. Two months after, he fell at their head, in the terrible charge at Fort Wagner, and was buried on the spot, without recognition. Brave men, great enough to rise above the prejudices of caste and of race, can never be forgotten,—and the idea of his statue should never be forgotten, till it shall stand an example to the young men of Massachusetts.

Ten years only have elapsed since that dreadful war was ended. It has removed the only obstacle which has interfered with the harmony of the different portions of our country. At last, while we cannot forget, let the amnesty be universal! The second civil administration of the great commander on whom we leaned for victory, at last approaches its close. Let all traces of war and of sectional division be ended now. And whether this or that of the great political parties shall take the next administration, let us never doubt of the perpetuity of the American Republic.

THE DINNER AND SPEECHES.

Immediately after the exercises in the church the people gathered at the tent,—a mammoth one, by the way, 145 feet long by 84 wide,—pitched on Judge ROCKWELL'S meadow on Kemble Street. Here a dinner had been provided by the ladies of the town. The tent, beautifully trimmed and filled with heavily laden tables, presented an appetizing picture to the eyes of the vast assembly. Fully one thousand persons sat down together at the tables, and several hundred were fed after the main body had been satisfied.

A little after two o'clock President GOODMAN called the assembly to order and gave as the first regular toast, "The President of the United States," calling upon Postmaster THOMAS POST, the only federal official of the town, to respond. Mr. POST spoke substantially as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:—This is not the time or place to attempt to fitly eulogize any of those who have, since the organization of our government, been chosen to be the chief executive. Yet as loyal and patriotic Americans we cannot do otherwise than ever cherish with admiration and affection the tradition, history and remembrance of our presidents. And when we consider the great temptations and opportunities of high executives in this country, when we recall the character of the rulers in the old world during the last century, it is matter of proud congratulation, that, among all the acts of our rulers, affecting and concerning so vast and varied interests,—often in the face of serious opposition and always subject to the scrutiny of a strong opposing party,—there should be so little, which, upon calm reflection, can be honestly and seriously criticised. No president has betrayed his country or provoked needless war.

The character and virtues of our first president are a part of every American's pride and inheritance. Of his immediate successors we cannot forget the ability and patriotism with which they grappled with the great questions arising in connection with the organization and early development of the country; we cannot forget how a later one crushed rebellion in its infancy, and how in more recent times another conducted our government through the longest and fiercest civil war of history, remembering him as well for the noble things he did—the beautiful sentiments he uttered—as for the cruelly-tragic manner of his death.

And certainly we of this generation shall always remember the services to his country rendered by the present executive before his selection as chief magistrate, and although in a country like this where two great political parties must exist, there will always be violent criticism of the administration in power, yet I believe that in the minds of future Americans and on the pages of the future history of our country, when men's passions have died out, the character and ability of General GRANT as a civil ruler will be esteemed not less than as a military chieftain.

And yet it is not the president as a man that Americans adore, however great his virtues or noble his character, but rather the presidency—the great fact that we, as sovereign and independent citizens, select our own rulers, create our own presidents—to us almost alone of all the critical and free peoples, does the privilege belong of deciding who shall be, for the time, our highest ruler,—it is that idea which inspires our assemblage to-day and similar assemblages all over the land, and to that idea may we ever be loyal.

The next regular toast, "The Clergy," was responded to by the Rev. T. S. BOND, pastor of the Lenox M. E. Church, who, following in the train of the President's remarks, spoke of Bishop ASBURY'S partiality for unmarried ministers, his favorite conference being the Virginia in which all the ministers but two were single men. As to his own opinion, he did not by any means advocate celibacy, but he did think it wise for young people to avoid entering into matrimonial engagements before they were able to take care of themselves. He then referred to the active part taken by the clergy of the land in all that tended to promote the common welfare, and of the powerful influence exerted by them. As representative men he referred to Bishop ASBURY, the pioneer Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who traveled more miles, preached more frequently and endured more hardships than any preacher on this continent; Bishop MCILVAINE of the Protestant Episcopal Church, one of the purest, noblest and saintliest of men; while, only a short time since, people from all parts gathered round a mound in an adjoining town to do honor to the memory of the mightiest mind America had ever produced, a man who has done more to mould the thought of New England than any other, and whose influence can never be told—JONATHAN EDWARDS.

It would be impossible to tell the story of what the clergy have accomplished during the past hundred years. Faithfully and fearlessly they have endeavored to do their duty, and what they have done in the past they can in the present, and they will in the future.

In announcing the next regular toast the President called for three

cheers for "The Old Bay State," and they were given with a will. He then called upon Ex-Lieutenant Governor JOSEPH TUCKER of Pittsfield, to respond. Mr. TUCKER said :

MR. CHAIRMAN AND FRIENDS :—You all recollect the beautiful Christmas Carol of Dickens, wherein old Scroge, of the firm of Scroge & Marley, was one of the leading characters. Scroge was a hard-hearted, hard-fisted old miser, a type of all that is selfish, mean and tyrannical. He had no friend, no pleasures, except his bank book. His partner Marley had been dead seven years, and while living had been a full match for him in these lovely qualities. One Christmas eve Scroge was in his cheerless, wretched chamber, eating a mess of poor porridge, snarling at the thought of the crowd of happy faces he had seen in the streets buying their Christmas dinners and presents, giving each other cheerful greetings and good wishes; and he was growling at the fools who dared to be happy without a fat bank account, when suddenly old Marley's ghost appeared and told him that he (Marley) was condemned to walk the earth with a heart soft and quick to see all wretchedness, and with a dreadful longing to relieve it, but without the ability, and this just as long as he had trampled upon humanity during life. This interview shook old Scroge severely, and caused him serious doubts as to the wisdom of his life, but it didn't change him. He went to bed the same old file he had been. As the clock struck one on Christmas morning, he was awakened and beheld before him the spirit of past Christmasses—a fair, beautiful, serious child's face and figure, with the long white hair of age flowing down its shoulders, and from its head a bright light which irradiated the room. This bright spirit wished to make a lasting impression on the hard old man, and with supernatural power transferred him to the home and time of his boyhood, and there, being themselves unseen, they saw the boys, all of whom Scroge recognized as his playfellows, busy at their frolics, the old neighbors at their work. They saw the calm and peaceful little hamlet; they went into the old school-room and there he saw himself a boy again, and his pretty little sister came in and put her loving arms around his neck and urged him home; and the hard-hearted old miser was broken, and his dry old eyes rained floods of tears, and his flinty heart became soft again. The crust of selfishness that years had moulded around his life was cracked, so that the sun-light of love shone in once more.

Well, sir, we that come back here to-day are not as hard as Scroge, I think, but this visit to the old home from out the strifes and selfishness of life will bring visions of boyish days and games; of the grand circle of elderly men and women, which, twenty-five years ago, rendered this little village remarkable. Of all the many scenes and incidents that indelibly imprint themselves on boyish minds, these recollections, mingled

with sadness and humor, will soften any hardness which may have gathered around our hearts, and give fresh life to the coming years.—Through you, I desire to thank the good people of Lenox for this opportunity of meeting my old friends and neighbors once more.

You have asked me, Mr. Chairman, to speak of the Old Bay State. Sir, in the language of the old school geographies, Massachusetts produces rocks, ice and men. These are her natural crops, the rest are exotics. They require continued care to insure maturity, but these are certain and unfailing, I believe that our rocks sprout and keep growing as long as their natural enemies, the Beldens and Curtises, let them alone. This State has been covered with rocks two hundred and fifty years, notwithstanding we have been exporting Concord granite for years, and lately, Lee and Sheffield marble are necessary for all public buildings of any pretensions to magnificence. Notwithstanding we have a State Board of Agriculture, composed of all the culled wisdom of all the agricultural societies of the whole State, which has for many years been sending out very expensive annual reports, telling us just what to do to get rid of the rocks, and notwithstanding there are in every town at least two such men as Samuel Belden and William O. Curtis, who blast, break up, and sink in ditches, and build up their walls as high as a fort, still the State is covered with rocks. I must insist that our rocks grow and are a permanent crop.

As to the ice, sir, it is the most comfortable crop we have. If one is busy or lazy through December, January or February, he can reap it in March. If he has other work pressing in March, he can wait till April, and, if he isn't particular as to quality, he can get it in May. It is the surest crop we have except rocks.

And now, sir, as to our principal crop, Men. The seed was brought over in the Mayflower, and planted in the winter. It seemed to be amazingly well adapted to this soil and climate. The strength and potency of this seed has not deteriorated, and I hope never will, for we can't get any more of it. Yes, sir, we are from the Mayflower; from the Pilgrims, not from the Puritans. What a glorious cargo was in that little bark! it was freighted with all we are, and are to be. It had tolerance, individual responsibility, and a written constitution. And this freight was, by the intervention of God, landed on our shores, and so began our crop of men—Winthrop, Endicott, Bradford and Standish; then Sam Adams, John Adams, Hancock and Otis; then John Quincy Adams, Webster, Davis and Governor Briggs; then Charles Sumner, John A. Andrew, Wilson and Phillips. The stock has not deteriorated. Make a list of all the American historians, and take from it Bancroft, Prescott, Motley, Palfrey and Parkman, and what is left? Make a list of American poets, and take from it Bryant, Dana, Longfellow, Whittier, Lowell,

Holmes and Emerson, and what is left? Two hundred and forty years ago our fathers founded Harvard College and our common school system. To-day, twelve hundred students crowd the halls of Harvard, and our school-houses dot every hill-side. One hundred and thirty years ago our fathers blazed their way through trackless forests into Berkshire; to-day, you can leave Pittsfield in early morning, spend seven hours in Boston, and sleep at home. A hundred years ago we were a few thousand poor sailors and farmers, yet 80,000 of them went into the revolutionary army; to-day, 1,700,000 prosperous and happy people are within our borders, and our laboring men have $230,000,000 in the Savings Banks. Our fathers pledged their lives and fortunes to the cause of liberty, and redeemed the pledge. To retain that which was so hardly won, Massachusetts, fifteen years ago, again pledged itself in the same cause, and redeemed the pledge with 200,000 soldiers and thousands of lives and millions of treasure. No, sir, the stock has not deteriorated.

No nobler soldier ever fell for freedom than WILLIAM DWIGHT SEDGWICK of Lenox. He came from Missouri in 1861, because he wished to fight in a Massachusetts regiment. Early in 1861, I took him to the cars on his way to join his regiment, and I saw him no more till I saw his dead body in yonder house. He was killed in September, 1862, at Antietam. We came from a Pittsfield camp to bury him, bore him to Stockbridge on a beautiful autumn afternoon, and as we parted from him at the grave the sun was just sinking behind the western hills, and the full harvest moon was rising in the east. Beautiful symbol of a glorious death, and strong assurance of a glorious resurrection!

He was a fair type of the crop of men which the old Bay State now raises, and they are worthy successors of their distinguished ancestry.

The next speaker was Hon. MARSHALL WILCOX of Pittsfield, who, in responding to "The Law," spoke of the high standing of the Berkshire bar and of its long-time association with Lenox. He also recalled some incidents of his school life at the Lenox Academy, speaking in particular of Mr. JOHN HOTCHKIN, its then principal, and suggesting the propriety of a suitable memorial from his old pupils.

"The Medical Profession" was represented by Dr. HENRY L. SABIN of Williamstown, who spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:—On the reception of your kind invitation to attend the centennial anniversary at Lenox, although living quite a distance from you, my unhesitating decision was, I will go, I cannot help it, neither do I wish to. A thousand precious recollections came up before me. It took me back sixty-five years, when I was a member of Lenox

Academy, and boarded at Dr. SHEPARD'S, and received the instruction of the memorable LEVI GLEZEN. It is true, he had some habits not desirable. He was an inveterate chewer of tobacco, and it was not uncommon when bending over your shoulder giving instruction in arithmetic, to spatter you all over with tobacco spittle. Yet he was a man of sterling character, a good disciplinarian, a thorough teacher, well qualified. He was the early educator of the sons of Berkshire, and young men in large numbers from the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and New York, sought and secured his instruction. He was a benefactor of the race. The world has been made wiser and better by his having lived in it. Only two that I remember are still living that were with me at the Academy—the Hon. GEORGE TIBBETS of Troy, and my school-mate and room-mate, and my life-long friend, Judge WILLIAM BACON of Utica, N. Y. From that day to this those early associations have not been forgotten. I climbed your mountains, I fished in your brooks, and bathed in your lakes. In manhood I have been pleasantly associated with your inhabitants. Your physicians, your lawyers, your judges, your men in authority, in office, have been my companions, my friends. And pardon me if I mention the names of HENRY W. BISHOP and CHARLES SEDGWICK. I cherish their memories. I loved them, and although dead they will never cease to retain a place in my heart. Other men have I reason to remember with gratitude. And permit me to congratulate the orator of the day for the good fortune that has attended him under the culture and kind influence of a Lenox girl.

Now, Mr. President, let me say that there has always been a peculiar sympathy existing between the inhabitants of Lenox and Williamstown. Judge ROCKWELL, in his address to-day, has revealed the cause. Colonel PATERSON of Lenox raised a regiment in the continental army from southern, middle and northern Berkshire. I have hanging upon the walls of my dining room, *well framed*, two commissions, one of captain, the other of lieutenant, one signed by JOSEPH WARREN, the other by JOHN HANCOCK, in Colonel PATERSON'S regiment. These commissions were given to my grandfather, ZEBEDIAH SABIN, in 1775. He accompanied Colonel PATERSON to Boston, Bunker Hill, New York and Canada. His son went with him, a private in his company. Neither of them returned; both died in Canada. My grandmother was left in South Williamstown with six children, a widow, upon an unsubdued farm, suffering all the privations of that early day, her boys clearing the farm and giving her all the support of loving and dutiful children. And I well remember following her remains to the grave in 1808, an intelligent, loyal and christian mother.

For "The Merchants of the Commonwealth," Hon. SAMUEL LAWRENCE of Stockbridge responded, as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:—In replying to your call, it is proper to say that the merchants of these colonies were distinguished for their loyalty to the British crown. As a proof of this, the expedition against Louisburg was planned in this State, and the troops were of New England, and commanded by a Massachusetts merchant, General PEPPERELL, in so successful a manner that he was invited to England by the King and created a baronet. JOHN HANCOCK was the son of a clergyman in Braintree, Mass., graduated from Harvard College in 1754, and at once began commercial life with a rich uncle in Boston, who soon died, leaving him heir to a large fortune. Mr. HANCOCK continued in business till 1775, when he was by far the richest man in New England, if not in the whole country. From 1770 to 1775, Mr. HANCOCK and SAM ADAMS had complete control of the popular sentiment of Boston, and were especially obnoxious to the British government, who at last offered a large premium for their apprehension. When the British fleet reached Boston, these two patriots were advised to go into the country for safety, and PAUL REVERE bore them in mind when he had the lamp hung out from the steeple of the North church, and informed them himself at Lexington, the same night, that the British were landing. PAUL REVERE was the leading mechanic of Boston, an engraver, of the stamp of BOLTON, WATT and STEPHENSON, such as make the wealth of a nation. JOHN HANCOCK's unanimous election as President of the most august assembly ever held on this continent, proves that he was the most illustrious merchant this country has produced, and it is mortifying that the only monument remaining to him is his unequalled signature to the Declaration of Independence. ROBERT MORRIS of Philadelphia, another merchant of wealth and great ability, devoted his time to the patriot cause, as well as his fortune, and died prematurely in want. ALEXANDER HAMILTON was bred a merchant, when he imbibed those wonderful ideas of practical political economy, so admirably illustrated while Secretary of the Treasury under General WASHINGTON, conferring benefits second only in importance to those of his great chief. THOMAS MELVILLE, a merchant of Boston, it was my great privilege to have known. He was one of those who gave King George the Third a tea party in Boston Harbor n 1773, which, it was thought at the time, was very distasteful to his najesty. Some of the tea was kept by Major MELVILLE during his ife, and at his death, given to the Massachusetts Historical Society.

I cannot sit down, Mr. President, without giving my hearty congratuations to you, Colonel AUCHMUTY, and the other enlightened citizens of is charming village, on the fact of your giving to every house an ndant supply of pure water, and having secured the means for makcomplete underground drainage. In the latter, you are ahead of any ge in this country, of its population.

Colonel RICHARD T. AUCHMUTY, a member of the board of Selectmen, spoke for "The Town of Lenox":

MR. PRESIDENT:—I do not know why I am called upon to answer to the "Town of Lenox." Mr. MCDONALD is the chairman of the Selectmen, and Mr. MILLER is my senior in office and in years.

We have heard a good deal of the past of Lenox. I would say, in regard to the present, that I doubt if a more enterprising town, in proportion to its wealth and population, can easily be found in the New England States. During the past four years, upwards of $45,000 has been contributed by subscription, or by gift, for public improvements. This includes the money spent on the Court House, the Club House, the Town Library, the Water Works, and the money subscribed for building the sewers. This money has not been the gift of any one family, nor has it been raised by any one class, but both rich and poor have helped.

The centennial year has also seen the town debt extinguished, and although the Selectmen are authorized to incur a new one, they do not think they will be called to account for an extravagant use of their powers at the next town meeting.

Hon. HENRY H. COOKE of Pittsfield, a former resident of Lenox and Richmond, was called up to represent the latter town, which was originally a part of Lenox. He said:

MR. PRESIDENT:—It seems almost a hopeless task to undertake to say a word to edify this large and appreciative audience, after the many eloquent words which have fallen upon our ears upon this eventful and glorious day. The learned orator of the day has told us, in his inimitable manner, of the deeds of heroism and sacrifice which characterized the age of our revolutionary fathers. With touching truthfulness he has portrayed the doings of that heroic age, with just and feeling interest to the illustrious individuals whose part in the great and unequal struggle for independence has made their names immortal. To this recital we can add nothing, nor shall we make the vain attempt. The presider of the day has interested us in all there is of good to be gleaned fr the learned pages of ancient and classical history. The broad and f tile fields of modern travel have been made fruitful of their choi jewels dressed in the fascinating expressions of Attic wit, thrown with an exuberance of humor captivating our understandings and l ing us willing captives to the shrine of mirth and merriment. The tleman from Stockbridge has pursued the car of modern commerce its humble beginnings in Massachusetts Bay, in all its tortuous ings, to where it comes thundering across the continent, throug sublime passes of the Rocky Mountains, laying the rich and varie

merce of Asia into the warehouses of our commercial emporiums. After all this, what can we say? We will content ourself by a few words of what we have seen with our own eyes in this immediate vicinity in the last fifty years.

Fifty years ago, not a rod of railroad existed in this country. In that time we have seen the county of Berkshire traversed with railroads from east to west and from north to south. Sights which are to-day of the most familiar kind that greet the eye, had then no existence. I had the good fortune to attend the first railroad meeting held in this county, whose purpose was to secure the construction of a railroad from Boston to the Hudson. It was held in the then red school house in the village of West Stockbridge. Hon. Caleb Hyde of Lenox was chairman. This town was represented by our lamented fellow-citizen, Charles Sedgwick, Esq., the chairman, Edmund Dewey, and possibly some others. A delegation from the city of Hudson, composed of Oliver Wiswall, James Mellen and the late Judge Edmonds of New York, was present. Judge Edmonds was the orator of the meeting. Berkshire was represented there by her ablest men. So little initiated in the science of railroads were our most intelligent men, that a small model of a railroad, perhaps two yards long, was exhibited by a delegate from Stockbridge, Mr. George Morgan. It was placed upon a table in front of the chair. It was examined with the most intense interest and curiosity. The theory there made public was, that a horse could move eight tons over the road at the rate of four miles per hour, but would require the help of several yokes of oxen to assist in going up the mountain in Becket. During these years we have seen what we now hourly witness —trains bearing their hundreds of tons, running ten to twenty miles per hour. The telegraph was utterly unknown. If we sent a message of business or friendship to our friends in the great Mississippi valley, it required two weeks of time to reach them and twenty-five cents postage. When we received an answer, the news was older than the news now is from China or the Indies. The waving fields of grass and grain, which to-day beautify your vales and hillsides, had to be harvested with the hand scythe, cradle and sickle, and gathered with the hand rake. Now the stripling farmer can mount the harvesting and mowing machines, horse rake and tedder, and can accomplish more than five stalwart men by the old process. Verily, if the motto of the learned ex-president of Williams College is true, that it is the mission of a high civilization "to subdue and replenish the earth," we have abundant reason to rejoice and be glad that the skilled and inventive genius of our mechanics has so adapted these laborious processes, that they can be done without turning men into beasts of burden. Let us, then, rejoice that these indispensable, but herculean, tasks can be done with ease and alacrity; that we

can become co-workers with that infinite intelligence which designed the earth to be "subdued and replenished."

What changes have taken place in sight of where we now stand, within the last quarter of this century! These beautiful hills now in our eye, crowned in most places with a palatial residence, were bleak and barren, or clothed with a famished crop of buckwheat. They are now "subdued and replenished," and the vista from the Church Hill, embellished as it has been for the last twenty-five years, is the peer in beauty of any landscape in New England. For all these beneficent changes let us, on this centennial day, rejoice and be glad with exceeding great joy.

"The Ladies" was responded to by WILLIAM S. TUCKER, Esq., who expressed his full concurrence in the complimentary words with which the President had introduced the toast, and closed with the following sentiment:

The President of the Day—

A Good-man and brave,
Long may he wave.

The closing speaker was GEORGE FITCH, Esq., who replied to "Our Revolutionary Ancestry" in the following words:

MR. PRESIDENT:—At this late hour of the day, after listening to the interesting speeches that have been made, and while the mercury stands at nearly ninety degrees, I am quite sure all who hear me will be interested to know that I intend to speak less than five minutes, the time specified by the President of the day. It is a duty we owe to ourselves, to our children, to all, that we, on this fourth day of July, should speak in honor of our ancestors who fought, who suffered, without pecuniary compensation, that we might celebrate this day. While we are ever ready to honor the name of WASHINGTON and most of the officers of the revolutionary army, it becomes us to speak of the brave deeds and heroic sacrifices of the rank and file of that faithful band. I will briefly mention one. On a small tombstone in the southern part of the cemetery on the hill, is the name of JABEZ BROOKS. He lived in this town about twenty-five years previous to his death. He died at the age of seventy-five. I consider myself greatly honored in calling him my grandfather. He joined the American army when he was nineteen, and was honorably discharged after he had served his country as a soldier nearly six years. When a boy I lived with him six years, and during that time I never heard him speak an unkind word to or about any man or take any advantage of another's necessity. He was alwyas true, always just, was more ready to give than to receive. He was a peacemaker at all times in his family and in the community where he

I have often heard him speak of the battles he was in, of the forts he had scaled. I learned much from him which could not be learned from history, of the prolonged privations and sufferings of the soldiers of the revolution. Frequently they had horse flesh to eat instead of beef, while at other times they were entirely destitute. My grandfather acknowledged that he had frequently been guilty of stealing, (if stealing it can be called) for he had from time to time taken from the horses some ears of corn, which, after being roasted in the hot embers, were all he had for breakfast, dinner and supper. He was one of the little army under WASHINGTON when retiring from New York city to the Delaware river. Many of the soldiers had neither tents nor blankets to protect them. He was in the front rank at Monmouth, N. J., when eight out of his little company of forty were killed or wounded. A short time before he died, on a fourth of July morning, while listening to the roar of distant cannon, he, with peculiar emphasis, said, "Little do they know what the day cost." A few years since, while standing by the tomb of WASHINGTON, frequently would the memory of my grandfather occupy my thoughts, and while thinking of the sacrifices he had made I came to the conclusion that the faithful soldier, under a kind Providence, as well as the commander-in-chief, has given us this day. All honor to his name.

But while we should at all times honor those who have made us a free people, we should, with equal zeal, speak of the noble deeds and bravery of those who, in the late great rebellion, preserved this government. Unless the nation had been sustained in those dark days, we should not on this beautiful site be here celebrating this day. No national banner, adorned with thirty-eight stars and with the motto "E Pluribus Unum," would be floating over our heads. To us no glory would be seen from e hills above us, no beauty would be reflected from the lakes beneath , but everything, whether lake, mountain or valley, would be clothed ith the garb of mourning. The grand broad prairies of the West, as ll as the lofty mountains of the East, alike would be almost valueless. s not necessary that we should search ancient or modern history to l men who have been brave and heroic. No Spartan band or Ro- cohort that ever went to the battle-field, exhibited nobler bravery or tude than the brave soldiers who went from Lenox. Some of them ere to-day; many of them have gone to the soldier's grave; others uffering from wounds more than a hundred deaths. We are their rs; we ought at all times to honor them for what they have done ffered to preserve the unity of this great nation. Although no ent has been erected in Lenox in honor of those who have given ves to sustain this government, no spire on which their names are ed pointing to the region where their noble spirits have gone, yet their names will be deeper and deeper engraven on our hearts e hearts of our children as the years roll on.

The following letters, in answer to invitations to attend the celebra
bration, were received and read at the dinner:

[From Senator DAWES.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 29, 1876.

THOMAS POST, Esq.,

My Dear Sir:—I thank you for an invitation to participate with th
people of Lenox in their celebration of the centennial anniversary of th
nation's independence.

I regret exceedingly that a proper discharge of my duties here w
deprive me of all share in those interesting ceremonies. I know of
place where more interest can possibly center on that day than in t
grand old town of Lenox, celebrating with that of the nation its o
municipal centennial. The occasion cannot fail to be one of surpassi
interest, and I am sincerely sorry that I cannot be with you.

Yours truly,

H. L. DAWES

[From President CHAPIN of Beloit College.]

BELOIT, WIS., July 1, 1876

THOMAS POST, Esq.,

My Dear Sir:—I thank you for the honor of an invitation to
Lenox celebration of the nation's centennial anniversary. I have b
by sacred and cherished associations brought into affinity with that d
nest among the hills, close enough to make me almost a native, an
would give me very great pleasure to participate in the festivities of
occasion there. But I am bound by previous engagement to bear a
in similar exercises in this county, with which the chief work of my
has become identified. Let me, however, through you, send a f
greeting to old Bald Head and my thanks, that swell with previous m
ories, to the genii of the Ledge and its pine grove, of the Pinnacle
its rough, romantic paths, and to the naiads of the Mountain Mi
whose placid beauty must be forever enchanting.

If you deem it fit, please offer to the gathered company the encl
sentiment, which your invitation makes uppermost in my mind.

Believe me ever, with warm personal regard,

Very truly yours,

A. L. CHAPI

The sentiment enclosed by Rev. Dr. CHAPIN was as follows:

The Daughters of Lenox—Types of true womanhood developed by
spirit of a free Christian republic, in genial homes all over the land
have touched the springs of the nation's life, a power for its strengt
salvation.

[From Hon. W. C. PLUNKETT.]

ADAMS, June 27, 1876.

os. POST, Esq., and other gentlemen of the Committee,

Gentlemen:—Your kind invitation to be present at the celebration the coming fourth in your town, is received, and I feel very grateful you for this remembrance of me. Nothing could afford me more asure than to join with you on that occasion, and unless controlled by oreseen circumstances, I shall attend. Though I left Lenox (my na- town) many years since, yet I have never ceased to regard with pest interest all matters appertaining to the welfare of that town. recollections of the good old town are the most vivid home recol- ions.

nowing but few in the town now, compared with the many I once w, and remembered and known perhaps by a much less number, I never pass the town or hear its name mentioned without the feel- at once arising that I see or hear of my home. I may not, I cannot any of those men who were once justly the pride of the town and the ty, whom I did most highly respect and whose names I remember reverence, but I shall be happy to unite with their descendants in rating a day, the occasion of which not only tried, but most glori- y proved, the courage and patriotism of those worthy sires.

ough I am not able or capable of adding to the zest of the occasion, ire that the day and its attending circumstances may be, in all re- s, fully equal to your efforts and anticipations. I remain,

Most truly yours,

W. C. PLUNKETT.

[From Rev. Dr. NEILL.]

334 SOUTH 9TH ST.,
PHILADELPHIA, June 26, 1876.

EAR SIR:

our invitation to participate with the inhabitants of Lenox in their ration of the centennial anniversary of the nation's independence, e. Whilst compelled to deny myself the satisfaction of being pres- can readily believe that in no portion of the United States will be more said to stir the soul on the coming fourth of July than e spoken at the Congregational Church and in the tent at Lenox.

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY NEILL.

POST, Chairman of Committee.

[From CHAS. R. COLLIN, Esq.]

ELGIN, ILL., June 27, 18

MR. THOMAS POST,

Dear Sir:—You cannot know just my feelings on receipt of invitation to join my townsmen and old neighbors in a centennial bration of the fourth. It really seemed like *one draw* more than I bear, for I have been indulging a hope for four months that durin coming season I could once more visit my old home. Twenty-one ago this summer I left Lenox the last time. Little did I think so time would elapse before I would look upon its hills again. And changes have occurred in these years! Some of my friends her that it would be a sad pleasure at least (if satisfying at all) for visit the old scenes. My thoughts of Lenox are as it was twenty ago, and I can hardly make myself feel that the people who stil there are older than then, and that though names would be familiar would be strange.

Though I cannot be with you on the fourth, I still hope to see I before the "sere and yellow leaf" of autumn.

Yours fraternally,

CHAS. R. COLI

[From ALBERT B. NEILL, Esq.]

BUFFALO, N. Y., June 22, 18

Messrs. THOMAS POST, EDWARD MCDONALD and F. J. BARRETT, mittee,

Dear Sirs:—Your kind favor of the 1st inst., inviting me to p pate with the inhabitants of Lenox in their celebration of the cent anniversary of the nation's independence and of the organization town, is received. I regret not a little that circumstances will pr my being with you that day. I have always had and shall always the deepest interest in the welfare of your beautiful town, noted a and ever has been for the beauty of its situation and the culture inhabitants.

Thanking you for your kind invitation, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

ALBERT B. NE

Letters of regret at their inability to be present were also re from Governor ALEXANDER H. RICE, Judge NOAH DAVIS of New Rev. Dr. E. K. ALDEN of South Boston, Rev. CHESTER FITCH of ford, Ill., and ELIZUR SMITH, Esq., of Lee.

NOTES TO THE ADDRESS.

General JOHN PATERSON, the youngest child and only son of Major JOHN and RUTH (BIRD) PATERSON, was born at Farmington, Ct., about 1744. His father, of Scotch descent and said to have been a liberally educated man, was a British officer in the French war, and was with Wolfe at Quebec. He died of yellow fever at the taking of Havana, September 5, 1762, aged 54. General PATERSON graduated at Yale college in 1762, taught chool and was a practicing attorney and justice of the peace in New Britain, then the rincipal village in his native town. June 2, 1766, he was married to ELIZABETH, daughter of Deacon JOSIAH and HANNAH (WARREN) LEE, of Farmington, and before 1774 removed, with his father-in-law's family, to Lenox. Here his abilities were soon recognized, and he was selected to represent the town in the two Provincial Congresses of 1774 and 1775. He was chosen a selectman and assessor in 1774, and was re-elected the following year. His course as a member of the Provincial Congress and his military career have been quite fully detailed in the Address, and but little need be added here. Entering the service as Colonel of the Fifteenth Regiment he was made a Brigadier General February 21, 1777, and attached to the northern department. He remained in service until the close of the war, then returning to Lenox, where his home had been during the whole period, and engaging in mercantile business with his son-in-law, AZARIAH EGLESTON. In 1785 he represented Lenox in the General Court, and in that and the following year was again a member of the board of selectmen and assessors. During Shay's rebellion he headed a detachment of the Berkshire militia ordered out for its suppression.

n the army General PATERSON was associated with Kosciusko, the Polish hero, with om he formed a close and intimate friendship. They were at the battle of Saratoga, d made the northern campaign together, and were both stationed at West Point after e escape of Arnold. While at West Point General PATERSON was appointed one of the dges at the trial of Major Andre.

Being one of the proprietors of the "Boston Purchase" of 230,400 acres in Broome d Tioga counties, New York, General PATERSON removed from Lenox, with his fami in 1791, and settled at Lisle, in Broome county, now Whitney's Point, a village in the vn of Triangle. Shortly after his settlement at Lisle he was chosen a member of the w York Legislature, and held the position for four years. He was also a member of New York Constitutional Convention of 1801, and in 1803-5 represented in Congress a ge portion of Central Southern New York. For twelve years he was the presiding ot st judge of the county court of Broome county, his term of service ending with his life. General PATERSON is said to have been remarkably quick and active, and a great lker. It is told of him, that while county judge he would often walk to Binghamton, be miles, to hold court, rather than go to the field and catch a horse to ride. While in the be he excelled as a drill officer. The historian of New Britain, Ct., (from which he removed to Lenox) says that, judging from the honorable offices bestowed on ral PATERSON, he was, in these respects, the most distinguished man ever reared . He died at Lisle, July 19, 1808. A grandson of Gen. PATERSON, Hon. THOMAS Pos TERSON, formerly a member of Congress, is now living at Rochester, N. Y., and him many of the facts in this sketch have been obtained.

AZARIAH EGLESTON was born in the year 1757, and died in 1822, at Lenox. His a
tors came from Exeter, in Devonshire, England, in 1630. They settled at Dorch
Massachusetts, but subsequently removed to Windsor, Connecticut. He was the s
SETH EGLESTON, who removed from Windsor to Westfield. AZARIAH was one of s
al children. He came to Pittsfield previous to the Revolutionary war, and there en
in Capt. NOBLE'S company of minute men, April 22, 1775. (MILLER seems to have
captain of his company, a part of the time.) This company belonged to the reg
commanded by Col. PATERSON, and contained the flower of the young men of Berk
He returned to Pittsfield from Boston, in December, 1775. He was afterwards Li
ant and Paymaster and belonged to Col. VOSE'S regiment. He continued in the
during the war, and was twice wounded. He was in the advanced guard at the
of Trenton, and was in the battle of Princeton. He was in the battle at Bemis' He
and at Saratoga, at the capitulation of Burgoyne. He was at Monmouth, Newpo
Stony Point. He was at West Point at the time of the court martial upon Andre, of
court Gen. PATERSON was a member. While at West Point he became intimate
quainted with General PATERSON. He was at New York at the British evacuatio
returned to West Point and settled the accounts of the 1st Mass. Regiment. Ma
1784, he left West Point and came to Lenox. At the close of the war he was a
and was afterwards generally known as Major EGLESTON. He was personally acqu
with Gen. WASHINGTON, and his signature is the seventh to the articles of assoc
of the Society of the Cincinnati, Gen. WASHINGTON'S being the first. (See in Li
State House, Boston.) August 11, 1785, he married Miss HANNAH PATERSON, daugh
Gen. JOHN PATERSON. She died at Lenox, January 31, 1803, aged 33 years. Th
years previously, her sister, Miss POLLY PATERSON, died at the age of seventeen.

For twenty years after the war Major EGLESTON was one of the leading citize
Lenox, distinguished for public spirit and hospitality. In 1796, at Christmas ti
entertained at his home a party of one hundred ladies and gentlemen, from Pittsfie
Stockbridge as well as Lenox, a full account of which occasion is contained in a
script letter written by the Rev. Mr. BURHANS, an Episcopal clergyman. It is
stood that Major EGLESTON'S property was afterwards lost, or greatly dimi
by obligations incurred for others. Mr. EGLESTON had several children, among
were Mrs. JAMES W. ROBBINS, of Lenox, and Mr. THOMAS EGLESTON, a disting
merchant in the city of New York, whose family preserve the old mansion wit
mendable care, and occupy it as a summer residence.

Gen. CALEB HYDE was born at Norwich, West Farms, (now Franklin,) Conn., J
1739, the fourth son of ELIJAH HYDE and RUTH TRURY, and grandson of SAMUEL
of the third generation. He married, in 1764, ELIZABETH SACKET, daughter of
JOHN SACKET, of Oblong, N. Y., and niece of Admiral RICHARD SACKET, of the
navy. He settled at Lenox in 1769, and took an active part in opposing British a
sion and in urging on the revolution. He was delegate from Lenox to the third I
cial Congress, represented the town in the General Court five years, was for nine
a selectman, and for a time was Sheri[illegible] of Berkshire county. He removed to
Broome county, N. Y., probably with Gen. PATERSON, whose eldest child, JOSIA
PATERSON, had married, January 1, 1788, Gen. HYDE'S daughter CLARISSA. H
became a leading man in Broome county, was Major General of militia, twice
State Senator, and in 1804 chosen by the A[illegible]sembly a member of the Council of
ment. He died at Lisle in 1820. This account of Gen. HYDE is [illegible]
[illegible] of the HYDE family, prepared by a descendant, the late
Chancellor of New York.